



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Superintendent of Schools

At its meeting held November 8, 2005, the Board took the following action:

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Supervisor Yaroslavsky made the following statement:

“For the past several years, the Public Defender’s Office (PD) has raised concerns with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) regarding special education in the Probation Camps. One significant issue is whether LACOE is adequately identifying juveniles in need of special education services. Currently, LACOE identifies students for special education services through self-reporting, records retrieval, and teacher identification.

“After many discussions with the PD, LACOE agreed to conduct a two-week special education pilot project at Camps Scott and Scudder in March 2005 in which all students who entered the camps were given a STAR Advantage test in math and reading. Those youths who scored below a 5th grade level were referred for a full special education assessment. This process identified 4 out of 11 youth who had not been identified through LACOE’s current identification process as needing special education. The pilot supports the PD’s assertion that youths in need of special education services in camps are being under-identified.

“Quickly and effectively identifying the special education needs of our probation youth is critical to a meaningful education experience and rehabilitation efforts as well as a significant component of addressing behavior problems, preventing school suspensions and expulsions and preventing probation violations.”

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Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, seconded by Supervisor Burke, unanimously carried (Supervisor Knabe being absent), the Superintendent of the Office of Education was instructed to:

1. Report back to the Board within three weeks on a plan to implement the following procedures in all Probation Camps on a pilot basis for six months to identify youth in need of special education or other supportive services:
 - Students entering a Probation Camp or Dorothy Kirby Center, who have not been identified for special education services, must be given the STAR Advantage exam within 48 hours regardless of time since the last STAR exam; and
 - Students who score 5.0 or below in either math or reading, conduct a record search to establish within one week, if a full special education assessment has been administered, and if it cannot be established within this timeframe that a full special education assessment has been administered, LACOE shall administer the assessment; and
2. Report back to the Board on the results of the six-month pilot project within one month after its completion to include information regarding the amount of resources required to conduct the pilot, strategies and proposed legislative changes for obtaining ongoing funding, as well as the following information on youth involved in the pilot at Probation Camps and the Dorothy Kirby Center:
 - Number of youth who self-identify for special education in the camps;
 - Number of youth given the STAR Advantage test;
 - Number of youth scoring 5th grade level or below in reading or math on the STAR Advantage test; and
 - The number of youth identified for special education services through the full special education assessment.

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